

You've Been Called From This Crooked Generation

Acts 2:36–40

September 7, 2026

Rev Joe Sanders

First Baptist Church Coshocton, Ohio

When I was first called by God I was a student in High School. Jesus called me out of my sin and into His Salvation. His Holy Spirit entered me and I was a new person. Living into this new person in a corrupted world has had it's ups and downs. As husband and father God called me again. This time He was calling me into ministry with teenagers. I thought I would spend the rest of my life in youth ministry. This corrupted world made the ministry challenging. While I was still working on my education I had the opportunity to be a chaplain in a hospital. They asked me, I didn't seek out the position. They saw me as chaplain and not as a youth pastor. Throughout my ministry there have been many times that I used those chaplain skills and gifts. It was in many ways a calling within a calling.

When I arrived here I was following God's calling to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ through counseling, leading, teaching and preaching. We are all called to be saved from this corrupt generation. Jesus has made it possible for every generation to be called from the corrupting power of sin. People in every place on earth are called from the corrupting power of sin. You are called by God. You have answered the call to be saved. Are you answering God's call each day?

Acts 2:36–40 (NIV) "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."

Everyone in every generation is corrupted by the power of sin. Peter has been speaking on the day of Pentecost. This is the annual feast in Jerusalem fifty days after the Passover. The disciples were gathered for prayer. There were other God fearing Jews in Jerusalem. As they prayed the Holy Spirit blew into the room like a mighty wind. The Holy Spirit appeared above each of the disciples like tongues of fire. The disciples started speaking in the languages of the other Jews. These Jews were astonished to hear the wonders of God being spoken in their own languages. Other Jews proclaimed that the disciples were drunk, but it was only nine AM.

Peter addresses this crowd with words given to him by the Holy Spirit. He quotes the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah. He points to Jesus as the fulfillment of these prophecies. He proclaims Jesus as the Messiah, the Holy One of God sent to save the world from their sins. He points directly to the Jews of Jerusalem as the ones who had Jesus killed. But death could not hold Jesus in the grave and He arose to life. Peter declares that all who call upon the name of Jesus will be saved.

His words are powerful. His message through the work of the Holy Spirit cuts to the heart of those who are listening. In other words they knew that they were guilty of sin and needed to be saved. They desperately wanted to be free from the guilt and to be forgiven. Peter tells them to repent and be baptized and they will also receive the Holy Spirit. That day thousands came to know Jesus as their

living Savior and Lord.

Peter has been saved, redeemed, delivered, born again and renewed. We know Peter before the crucifixion of Jesus as one who denied knowing Jesus. We know Peter as bold, speaking what was on his mind. We know Peter as rash, chopping off the ear of another man. We know Peter as an uneducated fisherman from far away Galilee.

But Jesus has changed Peter. He is a new creation in Jesus Christ. His old way of life is gone, and His new way of life is empowered by the Holy Spirit. His purpose in life has changed. He has a new direction. He has a new motivation. He is inspired. Peter has answered the call of God upon His life. Peter became the evangelist and leader of the church. The other believers looked to him for guidance. He spoke boldly for Jesus until he was martyred. God has called all of us. God calls us to be saved from this corrupt generation. God calls us to each day to be renewed from the corruption of sin.

Acts 2:36 (NIV) "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

We cannot deny it was our corruption that nailed Jesus to the cross. It was not just the Jews, the religious leaders, the scribes, and priests that killed Jesus. They were the ones who were jealous of Jesus. They were the ones who feared Jesus upsetting their religious system. They plotted against Jesus. They attempted to trap Him in His own words, but lost every time. They set out find a way to get rid of Him. They falsely accused Him, they berated Him, they held bogus trials. They handed Him over to the Roman soldiers to crucify Him.

They are guilty of sinning against God by killing His only Son. Jesus spoke about their actions before He died. The prophets in the Old Testament foretold the evil that was in their hearts. They were a corrupt generation. Everyone needed to be saved from the sin and evil they proclaimed. They were leading people away from God instead of leading them to God. They had created a world that was counter to the teachings of Scripture even though they used scripture to justify their actions. They believed they were right, but they were corrupted and were corrupting others. It was their sin that nailed Jesus to the cross.

Since we follow the temptations of our weaknesses and our strengths we also nailed Jesus to the cross. Our sin makes us just as guilty of nailing Jesus to the cross. No one can be faithful to God except Jesus. He was the only one who lived a life without sin, even though He was human and tempted like all of us. Jesus came to die on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. Jesus knew He was headed toward the cross. Jesus knew that He would rise from the dead providing forgiveness of our sins.

We are all created uniquely, with differing personalities, strengths and weakness. Yet we are all the same. We have an overwhelming tendency to lean into sin instead of leaning into God. We were born to sin even though we were created in the image of God. Our strengths become points of pride and even arrogance. We think too much of ourselves and our accomplishments. We begin to believe that we can't make mistakes. We slowly stop trusting God and seek to become a god in our own image. Sounds drastic, but we see it often.

Our weaknesses are obviously places that bring us down. We're weak and seek the approval of others instead of God. We're weak and lash out, act out toward others instead of loving others. We're weak and we give into temptations instead of calling upon the name of the Lord. We're weak and see

ourselves as hopelessly rejecting God. We're weak and make excuses even blaming God for our troubles. We're weak and we attack others out of jealousy and envy. We're weak and we lie, steal, and hate others. We're weak and we dishonor the people closest to us.

These are the sins that nailed Jesus to the cross. These are the sins for which Jesus came to save, and redeem, and deliver us. Jesus, when we call upon Him, will save us from our corruption. Jesus, when we call upon Him, will renew us to a right relationship with Him. Each day Jesus will renew us from the corruption of this generation.

Acts 2:37–39 (NIV) When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

Jesus saved you by faith through grace, He is renewing you from the corruption. As Peter spoke about Jesus, the Holy Spirit was busy in the hearts of the Jews opening their hearts to see their sin. The Holy Spirit is doing the same thing over and over again. Throughout all of history it is the Holy Spirit that calls sinners to see their sin.

The words of any preacher are only the beginning of the work of the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit cuts through the hardened layers of sinful hearts we know we need to repent. We see our sin, our disobedience, our rejection, and our selfishness. We recognize that we can't fix our sin and our lives without Jesus. We confess our sins, we repent of our sins, turning away from the sin, and we turn to Jesus.

This is the grace of God. We don't deserve to be forgiven. We have dug a whole of corruption and God could leave us sit in it. Jesus, the loving God that He is, offers this grace to all. Everyone who calls upon Jesus receives His grace. We are saved, redeemed, delivered, and renewed. We become brothers and sisters of Jesus. We become disciples of Jesus. Our hearts, minds and spirits are made new. Every day we are renewed from the corruption of sin.

Repentance, forgiveness, and being baptized are all part of renewal from corruption. Some people confess their sins, admitting they are sinners. But they don't repent, so they aren't forgiven. Some people repent and receive forgiveness but don't become disciples. They hold onto the corruption of self importance. Some people are baptized but they have not allowed the full cleansing from sin that baptism symbolizes. Therefore the corruption is not being removed. And then a disciple is not being renewed by the Holy Spirit to the image of God.

Every disciple of Jesus must have the mindset of Jesus which is submitting to God. Renewal must take place in the heart, the mind, the body, and the spirit. Until you, as a disciple, submit to God renewal can't take place. As long as we hold onto one of our strengths without surrendering it to God we can't be renewed. As long as we use our weaknesses as an excuse without surrendering it to God we can't be renewed.

Every disciple of Jesus is called to be renewed from the corruption of this generation and every generation. As Bible believing disciples of Jesus we need to be renewed everyday so we can make more disciples. Even though we were born to sin, we are also called out of our sin and called by God into renewal from our sin. Peter's words on the day of Pentecost were not just for the Jews of his day.

His words speak to every generation. There is not a generation that does not need to be saved. The salvation of Jesus must lead to renewal.

Acts 2:40 (NIV) With many other words Peter warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."

Your weaknesses and your strengths need to be given to Jesus to be renewed from corruption. Every disciple of Jesus is on a continuing journey of renewal. As I face each day I am reminded by the Holy Spirit of the corrupting power of sin. My human tendency is to be in control. I struggle with it all the time. When I'm not in control I can get angry. I can say things I don't want to say. This tendency is corrupting my life. It has in the past and it's a temptation everyday. When I don't give it to Jesus, it pulls me away from Him.

My attitude is that I'm always right. This grows out of the control issue. When I'm proven wrong I feel like a two year old being told no. When people don't do what I know is right I try harder to convince them. This attitude causes the temperature to rise. The tension grows. Things get louder. This attitude corrupts my life. It's like an itch and then I scratch it. The corrupting itch can only be healed by Jesus.

My tendency is to be an object at rest. I can sit down, close my eyes and take a nap. I'm getting better at this as time goes by. It leads to procrastination. It leads to excuses. It results in disobedience. When I'm inactive, letting myself wallow in my own laziness, I'm not following Jesus. This corruption needs to be put at the feet of Jesus; confessed to Him. I need to repent of my disobedience and turn to Him again. Unless I am willing to continually put my sins at the feet of Jesus, the corruption remains in my life. Everything that is corrupted is not working as it was created to do.

Giving your life to Jesus as your Savior and Lord is the only way to renewal. The Holy Spirit is speaking to your heart. He is talking to your spirit, your soul. He is telling you about your sins. He is letting you know that you are corrupted, in need of being renewed. The Holy Spirit will keep talking to you. You can try to tune Him out, but you can't silence His voice. You can cover over His voice with a variety of different sounds, but He will keep talking to you. You have the opportunity to be renewed through faith in Jesus.

As a believer you can try to forget what the Holy Spirit is saying or you can confess and repent of your sins. When you give to Jesus whatever sin is still corrupting your life you discover a fresh awareness of the Holy Spirit. He will come into your life like the wind blowing in from Heaven above. He will light a fire in your soul, your spirit, and your heart. Your life will be renewed.

As a sinner you can be saved from this corrupt generation. You can be forgiven of your sins. You can be redeemed to a new life on this earth. You can be delivered to a new life for all of eternity. You can confess your sin and repent of your sins. You can turn to Jesus as your Savior and your Lord. When you give Jesus your life you will be forgiven. You will discover joy like you have never experienced before. You will receive peace that cannot be matched by anything on this earth. You will be set free from your sins. You will be empowered with the glory and majesty of Heaven.

Ask Jesus to save you from the corruption of this generation.